



29 July 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

I have received some feedback from parents that they prefer these updates to be in the body of the email rather than an attachment, hence the current format.

Eighteen months in and unbelievably I am still sending updates with regards to COVID. In fact, given the current situation in New South Wales, it is probably closer to home now than ever before, but hopefully with many people being vaccinated daily this will change soon.

Please keep in your prayers those in the Saint Stephen's family who have lost loved ones overseas to the virus. It is particularly hard given that they have not been able to see these family members to say goodbye.

At this time, please also keep in mind and in your prayers our Chinese families who are worried about family members in the city of Zhengzhou, Henan province. This area has received the equivalent of their year's average rainfall in just two days. Flooding is uncommon in this provincial capital and, as such, they are not equipped for this situation. These families are separated by distance and many have not seen each other in years.

At Saint Stephen's we continue to follow the directives from the State Government and Queensland Health. As I write this there has been no discussion of a lockdown in Queensland, but we are alert to the fact that this could change within a matter of days, if not hours.

In the event of a lockdown, we are ready to move to off-campus teaching and learning, but students would be expected to self-study for a day while teachers ensure that they are fully equipped to make the move as seamless as possible. Please see details below of what would happen if we were to go into lockdown.

Off-Campus Learning (OCL) Senior College

In the case of a lockdown, the following will apply to Senior College teachers and students:

- Staff will have one full working day to prepare resources/logistics to move from face-to-face instruction to online teaching. On this day, Years 7 to 12 students will be expected to continue their studies as per the weekly plan published on D2L for each subject. Students are to continue to accessing the content on D2L for each of their courses. This will include continuing to work on any assessment that is due. There will be no face-to-face instruction on this day
- Once OCL commences, the normal Senior College timetable shall be followed with the below modifications: A copy of this timetable is attached for your reference



Developing character, inspiring hope

1. Lessons that have a double period in Periods 1 and 2, and Periods 4 and 5, shall be shortened by 10 minutes. This will allow students to have a break in between some lessons
 2. Tutor Group time on Monday and Period 5 on Friday will be a Year-level Teams Meeting (YLTM). Students will be expected to attend both Teams meetings with their respective Heads of Year, during which a roll would be taken. Friday's YLTM may not necessarily be face-to-face for the whole period (as per academic lessons)
 3. Tutor Group on Tuesday-Friday will be held with the regular assigned tutor
- Staff will take a roll for all lessons and absentees shall be followed up in the usual manner
 - Teachers will not necessarily be 'live' on screen for the duration of their Teams lesson. They may set up the lesson and give students time to work on the required task, with the teacher supporting students (such as through breakout rooms etc.)
 - Students are encouraged, during each break, to move away from their screens (all screens!) and do some stretching, exercising or playing outside

Off-Campus Learning (OCL) Junior College

Students in Years 4 to 6

- With each child having their own device, and the Year 4 students being able to borrow their classroom laptop, the classroom will continue to flow with the children accessing their work in OneNote
- Instructional videos and supportive audio will be used to help children to complete their work online
- There will be live classroom check ins with their teacher twice each day and small group check-ins arranged for particular subject areas.
- There will be one teacher monitoring the year level email each day so the students can ask for help as they need.
- The day will run as per the usual timetable and specialist lessons will be provided by the usual teacher. Break times in the timetable are encouraged so the children are having a rest from the screen and are being active and eating well.

Students in Prep to Year 3

- Online learning for our younger students is designed to allow for families who are sharing devices
- We will have live meetings with the class teacher twice each day to keep the connection strong and personal
- The teachers will also have some small group interactions for particular subjects
- The daily PowerPoint will go through the learning activities for the day with video and audio support. These can be run at any time that suits the family. These will include the classroom and specialist lessons
- There will be one teacher monitoring the year level email each day so students or families can ask for help as they need
- As we had last year, the paper copies of activities and reader changeover will be run through the drive through in East Carpark, if Queensland Government restrictions allow

- Break times and play periods are important for the children in their day and particularly when they are confined to home

I would like to reiterate that, at this time, we have no indication that we will go into lockdown, but it is best to be prepared. Whilst we are aware of cases on the Gold Coast, Saint Stephen's staff will continue to wear masks as appropriate. According to directives no one is required to mask up while teaching or presenting.

Thank you to all our parents who have supported the safety of our students and staff by wearing masks on campus or socially distancing if they are exempt from wearing masks. Our primary focus, as always, is the health, safety and wellbeing of our community.

To our brothers and sisters who have contracted and are suffering due to the Coronavirus Disease, we pray that God's healing hand may rest upon you.

To medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff who are in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, may the Good Lord sustain you and inspire you to render your life-saving services with due care, love and compassion.

To all those who are far from loved ones, particularly during sickness and traumatic events,

may you find consolation from others in the community.

To all those who have lost their loved ones due to the Coronavirus outbreak and other reasons, we convey our deepest sympathies.

We pray that their souls, through God's mercy, may rest in eternal peace.

We pray that God may grant all bereaved families his consolation and strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Amen

Kind Regards



Kim Cohen
Principal